



REMARKS

The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated August 27, 2003 have been carefully reviewed by the Applicants. Claims 1-24 are currently rejected.

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 16-20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 16, 19, and 20 have been amended as described below. Claim 24 has been canceled.

Claim 1: "the relative position" has been changed to "a geometric position."

Claim 3: "the initiation" has been changed to "an initiation."

Claim 4: "the initiation" has been changed to "an initiation."

Claim 10: "the execution" has been changed to "an execution."

Claim 11: "the display" has been changed to "a display."

Claim 16: "the visual output" has been changed to "a visual output."

"the relative position" has been changed to "a relative position."

"said sliding cover" has been changed to "a sliding cover."

"said processor module" has been changed to "a processor module."

Claim 19: "said signal" has been changed to "a signal."

Claim 20: "the rearrangement" has been changed to "a rearrangement."

Claims 1-23 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwata (US 6535749). In response, Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to patentably distinguish the present claimed invention from Iwata. Claims 21-23 have been canceled. The rejection of Claim 8 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

...a sensing device coupled to said processor module and to said sliding display cover for providing geometric information indicating a relative position of said processor module with respect to said sliding display cover, wherein said geometric information is provided for a plurality of positions...

The previous reference to "relative position" has been changed to "geometric position" in order to clearly distinguish

the claimed invention from Iwata. Iwata discloses a detector/switch that senses whether a cover is open or closed. As taught by Iwata, the detector/switch does not provide quantitative or geometric information regarding the relative position of the cover and processor module. Specific support for amendment is provided in the specification at page 41, lines 8-15. General support is provided in section G on pages 39-43.

Iwata only discloses a detector/switch (see 9 of Fig. 2) for determining a "closed" position and a "not-closed" position. The "location detector" of Iwata only detects a single location, and the detector essentially provides a "yes" or "no" answer to the question "is the cover closed?" If the cover of Iwata is not closed the detector is incapable of providing geometric information regarding the position of the cover. The detector can only "know" the position when the cover is closed.

In contrast to Iwata, the present invention provides geometric information regarding the relative position of the cover over a range of positions, as discussed in Section G. This difference is incorporated in amended Claim 1 by the limitation "wherein said geometric information is provided for a plurality of

positions." Thus, amended Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-7 are patentably distinguished from Iwata.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 8 on the grounds that Iwata fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the invention as claimed in Claim 8. Specifically, Iwata fails to teach or suggest "positioning an edge of said sliding cover adjacent to a portion of said information on said display screen by sliding said sliding cover relative to said display screen."

Iwata fails to disclose using the edge of the cover to point to, or select, information on a display screen. As described above, the device of Iwata only has knowledge of the cover position when it is closed. Underlining information with an edge of the cover requires that the cover not be closed, e.g., at least partially open. Since the cover of Iwata does not provide specific position information in a partially open position, there is no rationale for underlining information on the display screen with an edge of the cover. Thus, Claim 8 and dependent Claims 9-14 are patentably distinguished from Iwata.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite:

...sensing a relative position of a sliding cover and [[said]] a processor module, wherein said relative position is a partially closed position;  
generating said visual output on said display, wherein said visual output comprises visual objects arranged to be viewable in response to said relative position.

As described above, The device of Iwata is incapable of determining the geometric position of the sliding cover, and thus cannot arrange objects in the display output to be visible in response to the position of the sliding cover. Specific support for the amendment of Claim 16 is provided at page 41, line 17 to page 42, line 10. Thus, amended Claim 16 and dependent Claims 17-20 are patentably distinguished from Iwata.

In summary, Applicants assert that Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit such action by the Examiner.

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Respectfully submitted,

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